

**We will be
there for
you every
step of the
way
through
the
appeals
process ...**

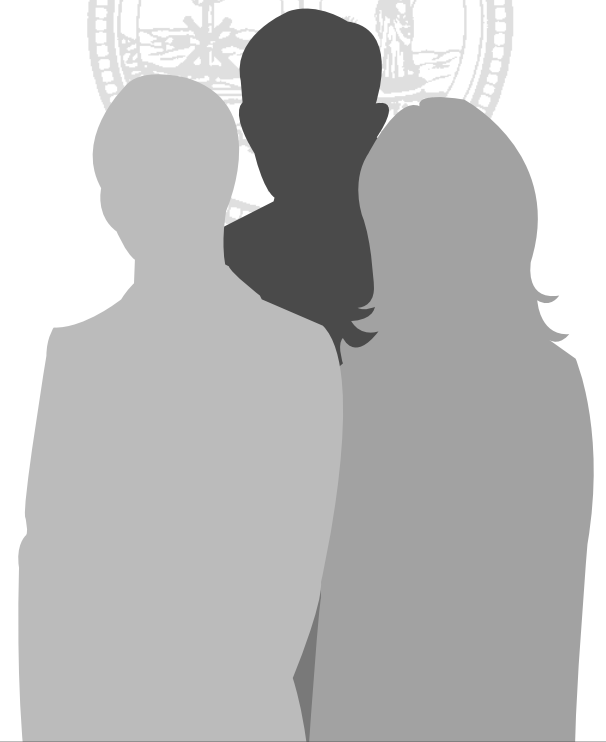
SOVA

**SOUTH CAROLINA
State Office of
Victim Assistance**

Rooted in *justice*
Guided by *law*
Propelled by *humanity*

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**Your Right
to Appeal**
Crime Victims' Compensation



SOVA
SOUTH CAROLINA
State Office of Victim Assistance
An Office of the Governor

The Appeal Process ...

If victims disagree with the decision by SOVA to deny their application for benefits, or maybe they disagree with a decision on a particular benefit, or the amount of a benefit, they have the right to appeal.

Here's How:

- Fill out the appeal application when you receive the notice that your application for benefits has been denied or reduced.
- Make sure to explain why you disagree with the decision and submit additional documentation you feel may assist in your appeal.
- Make sure you return the appeal application within 30 days of the date on the denial packet.
- Please follow the instructions in the pamphlet and be sure to send in materials within the stated time limits. Take the time to read this information thoroughly.

If you are a victim who wishes to appeal a decision made by SOVA:

- A review will be scheduled as soon as possible after the denial of the claim, and you will be given a written notice of the date, time and location at least 30 days prior to the review/appeal hearing.
- During the review process, your case file will be reviewed by an appeals panel. The appeals panel will decide the case based upon the facts in the file and any additional evidence or information provided.

You may do the following at the appeal hearing:

- Appear in person to explain why you believe the decision in the case was incorrect
- Bring an attorney or other individuals you may wish to have represent you during the hearing
- Delegate an attorney or other individuals to represent you if you are unable to attend
- Bring other individuals/information which you believe will assist the panel in making a final decision in the case

The appeals panel will make a final decision to either uphold or change the Director's decision within 90 days. Within 10 days after receiving the panel's decision, the Director will provide you with a copy of the final decision. The appeals panel may also continue a case because it has made a request for more information to review before giving its decision.